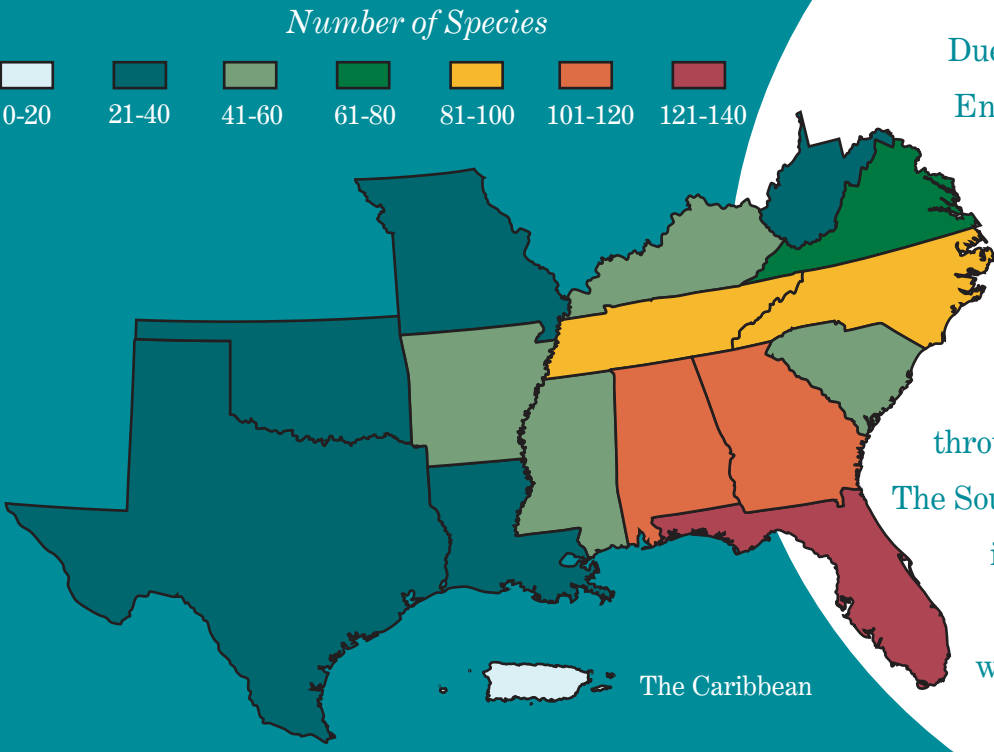


All Lands, All Hands, All Wildlife.

Conservation Southern Style

*Voluntary conservation actions to keep working lands working and to conserve fish and wildlife for future generations

Candidate + Petitioned Species



Together We Make Conservation Possible

Due to litigation and petitions under the Endangered Species Act, the Southeast Region is evaluating **about 450 species** during the next decade. We believe that conservation will eliminate the need for protection under the Endangered Species Act through innovative, **voluntary** measures. The Southeast Region is actively developing integrated conservation strategies to ensure working lands stay working while we conserve fish and wildlife for future generations.

Conservation Milestones

- Conservation groups filed a national multi-district litigation and mega-petition, requiring the Southeast to evaluate more than 450 species for Federal protection
- USFWS Southeast Regional Director Cindy Dohner meets with SEAFWA, proposes at-risk strategy
- Downlisting**
Tulotoma snail
- Downlisting**
Okaloosa darter
- Delisting**
Tennessee purple cone-flower

2011

- More than 40 candidate species do not need protection under the Endangered Species Act**
- Signed Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances**
Spring pygmy sunfish
- NRCS Provides \$10.9 M** to landowners via Working Lands for Wildlife

2012

- Petitions to List Withdrawn**
Lower Florida Keys striped mud turtle and seepage salamander
- Gopher Tortoise Conservation Strategy Developed**
- Candidate Conservation Agreement Signed**
Yadkin River goldenrod
- Listing Not Warranted**
Yadkin River goldenrod
- 2 More Candidate Conservation Agreements Signed**
Spring pygmy sunfish
- NRCS Provides \$9.9 M** to landowners via Working Lands for Wildlife
- Delisting**
Magazine Mountain shagreen
- Downlisting**
Wood stork

2013

- Candidate Conservation Agreement Signed**
Georgia aster
- Listing Not Warranted**
Georgia aster
- SEARS**
SEAFWA and Wildlife Management Institute will fund the at-risk strategy coordinator
- Candidate Conservation Agreement Signed**
Elfin woods warbler

2014



The Tortoise That Brings People Together

The gopher tortoise may just be the mascot of southeastern conservation partnerships. With approximately **80% of its populations found on private lands**, voluntary conservation is crucial to the tortoise's survival. In 2008, the Fish and Wildlife Service and **fourteen partners** from the states, tribes, non-profits and other federal agencies signed a Candidate Conservation Agreement for the species that outlined each organization's commitments to conservation actions for the species.

Then in 2013, in cooperation with input from the states Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi and the Wildlife Diveristy Committee of the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the CCA became the foundation for the first-ever Range-Wide Conservation Strategy for the Gopher Tortoise.

"A wise man once said, 'If you see a turtle sitting on fence post (in this case a gopher tortoise) he didn't get there by himself.' In a sense I'm that gopher tortoise. All of my good work is the result of help, assistance and knowledge that I've gained from other conservation-minded people and organizations."



- Reese Thompson, Georgia landowner

Voluntary Conservation Makes "Cents"



Cost to list **one** species under the ESA
100K+
& regulatory burden

Cost to conduct additional surveys, research for **five** crayfish species
62K

Collaborating for Crayfish

In May 2014, a collaborative data collection effort among federal and state agencies, private landowners and industry resulted in five crayfish being withdrawn from the 2011 mega-petition, saving thousands of dollars for taxpayers and reducing regulatory burdens for landowners.

The crayfish, found in Alabama, Georgia and Mississippi, were under evaluation for potential listing under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spent \$62,000 on survey work conducted by three regional crayfish experts over three years. Additionally, partners including the Alabama DCNR, the Geological Survey of Alabama and Dr. Susan Adams of the U.S. Forest Service's Southern Research Station assisted in the effort.



"By pooling our resources, we're learning more about our species, bringing efficiency to conservation, and making a difference on the landscape for the people of Alabama."

- Charles "Chuck" Sykes, Director, Alabama Division of Wildlife and Fisheries

Conservation Southern Style

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We need your help! No effort is too small. Join us at <http://www.fws.gov/southeast/initiatives/>



Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group



THE CONSERVATION FUND

